

CH-367

circa 1825

**Jenkins Tobacco Barn, Relocated
Chicamuxen vic.
Public**

The Jenkins Tobacco Barn is one of a handful of surviving pre-Civil War tobacco barns in Charles County. The early 19th century barn was relocated from a former site and reconstructed at Smallwood State Park in 1985. Currently it stands on a 167 acre parcel to the south of the William Smallwood House known as Smallwood's Retreat. The barn is adjacent to a parking lot and forms a visitor center complex that is approached prior to reaching the Retreat. The John Grinder Farmhouse (CH-359) stands approximately 500 yards from the barn site. During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region, promising to yield impressive profits that lured many adventurers to the Chesapeake Bay. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Tobacco cultivation continued relatively unchanged until the last quarter of the 20th century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-367

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jenkins Tobacco Barn, Relocated
other

2. Location

street and number Smallwood State Park not for publication
city, town Rison X vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources
street and number 580 Tawes Avenue E-3 telephone 410-260-8164
city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 30 p. 153
city, town La Plata liber 131 folio 544

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-367

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The early 19th century Jenkins Tobacco Barn was relocated from a former site and reconstructed at Smallwood State Park in 1985. Currently the barn stands on a 167 acre parcel to the south of the William Smallwood House known as Smallwood's Retreat. The barn is adjacent to a parking lot and forms a visitor center complex that is approached prior to reaching the Retreat. The John Grinder Farmhouse (CH-359) stands approximately 500 yards from the barn site.

The barn was evaluated by Mark Edwards who is believed to have drafted a property description which is summarized below. Copies of the measured drawings which accompanied the original description are also attached. The barn originally stood near Bryans Road on the Jenkins Farm. Tax Map 5, parcel 444) In the 1980's the original site was developed as a county park and library facility, now known as Ruth B. Swann Park on MD 210. Prior to deconstruction, the Maryland Historical Trust surveyed the barn, verified its construction date, and numbered the timbers as it was dismantled. In December 1984, the Charles County Historical Society ceded possession of the barn to the Smallwood Foundation provided that the Foundation undertake to reconstruct the barn at Smallwood's Retreat. Today the reconstructed barn serves as an interpretive center, housing a permanent exhibit on the life of William Smallwood and tobacco culture throughout the Chesapeake. The barn also houses a large prize donated by Barton W. Richwine of Woodberry Farm in western Charles County.

The barn, including approximately 95 percent of its original structural elements, is typical of early 19th century workmanship and design. It is of post and beam construction, measuring 40' wide by 31' long including sheds spanning the length of each eave elevation. Materials include hand-sawn mortise and tenon structural members and feather-edged horizontal siding throughout. The reconstructed barn includes a brick floor and wood shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-367

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	c. 1825	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	c. 1825		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Jenkins Tobacco Barn is one of a handful of surviving pre-Civil War tobacco barns in Charles County. During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region, promising to yield impressive profits that lured many adventurers to the Chesapeake Bay. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Unlike corn and wheat, tobacco cultivation did not encourage the development of significant urban centers for the shipping and processing of the crop. Instead, the county's landowners remained isolated, on individual farmsteads that comprised small "villages" made up of the main dwelling house, several slave quarters, and ancillary domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce. However, tobacco cultivation continued relatively unchanged until the last quarter of the 20th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-367

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property n/a

Acreage of historical setting n/a

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 30, Parcel 153.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 1/21/2004

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-367

Section 9 Page 1

Jenkins Tobacco Barn

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

"Charles County, Maryland Tombstone Inscriptions and Name Index." Charles County Historical Society. Southern Maryland Studies Center, College of Southern Maryland

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

McDaniel, George William. *Log Cabins and Frame Houses: A Brief Sampling of Slave Cabins in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, Maryland*. Unpublished paper, August 25, 1974. On file at Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, MD.

McGrath, Sally V. and Patricia J. McGuire, eds. *The Money Crop: Tobacco Culture in Calvert County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical and Cultural Publications, 1992.

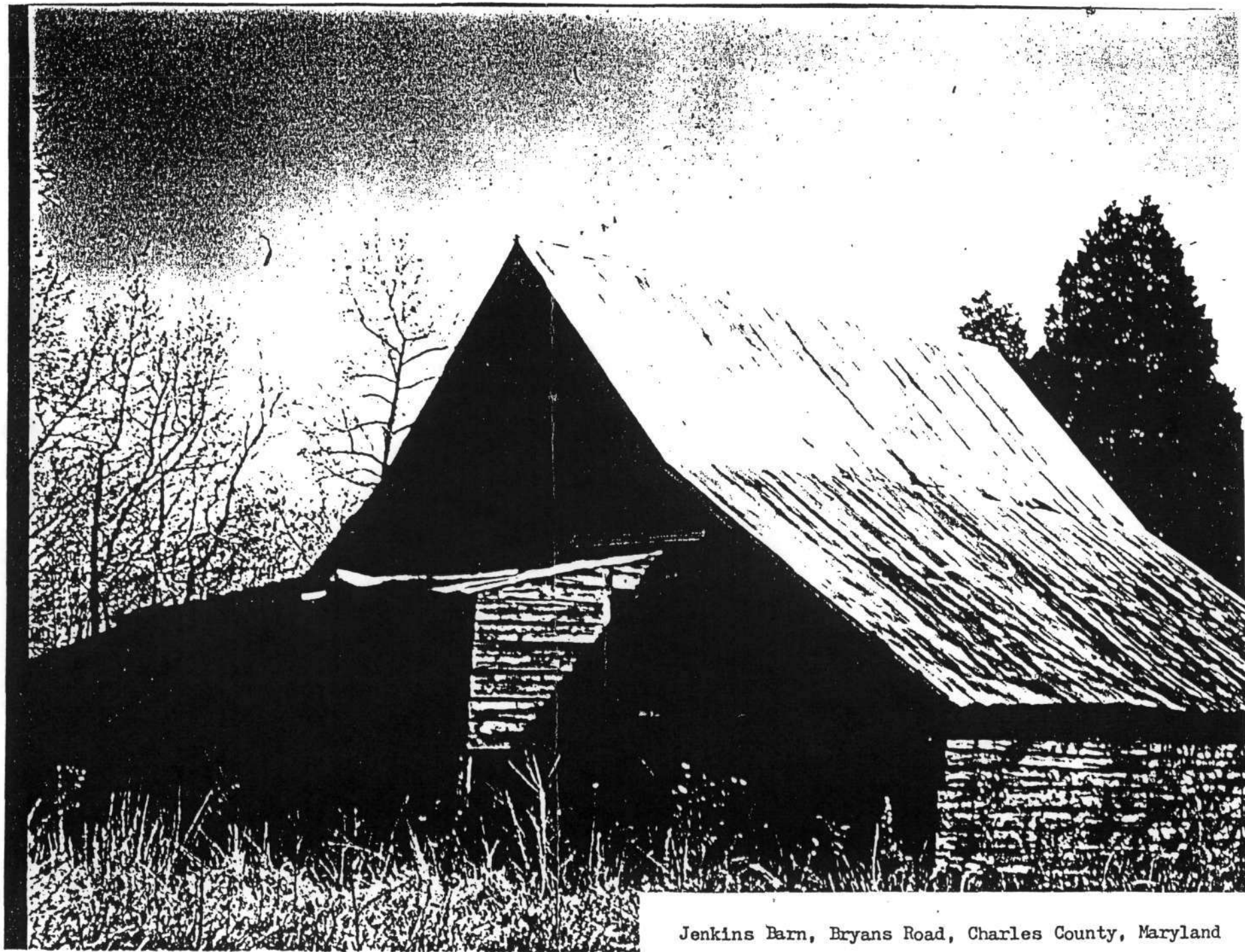
Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Southern Maryland Studies Center, Charles County Community College, 1990.

Wasch, Diane Shaw. "The Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco in Maryland." Paper prepared for the Office of Research, Survey and Registration, Maryland Historical Trust. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, MD.

Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J. Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

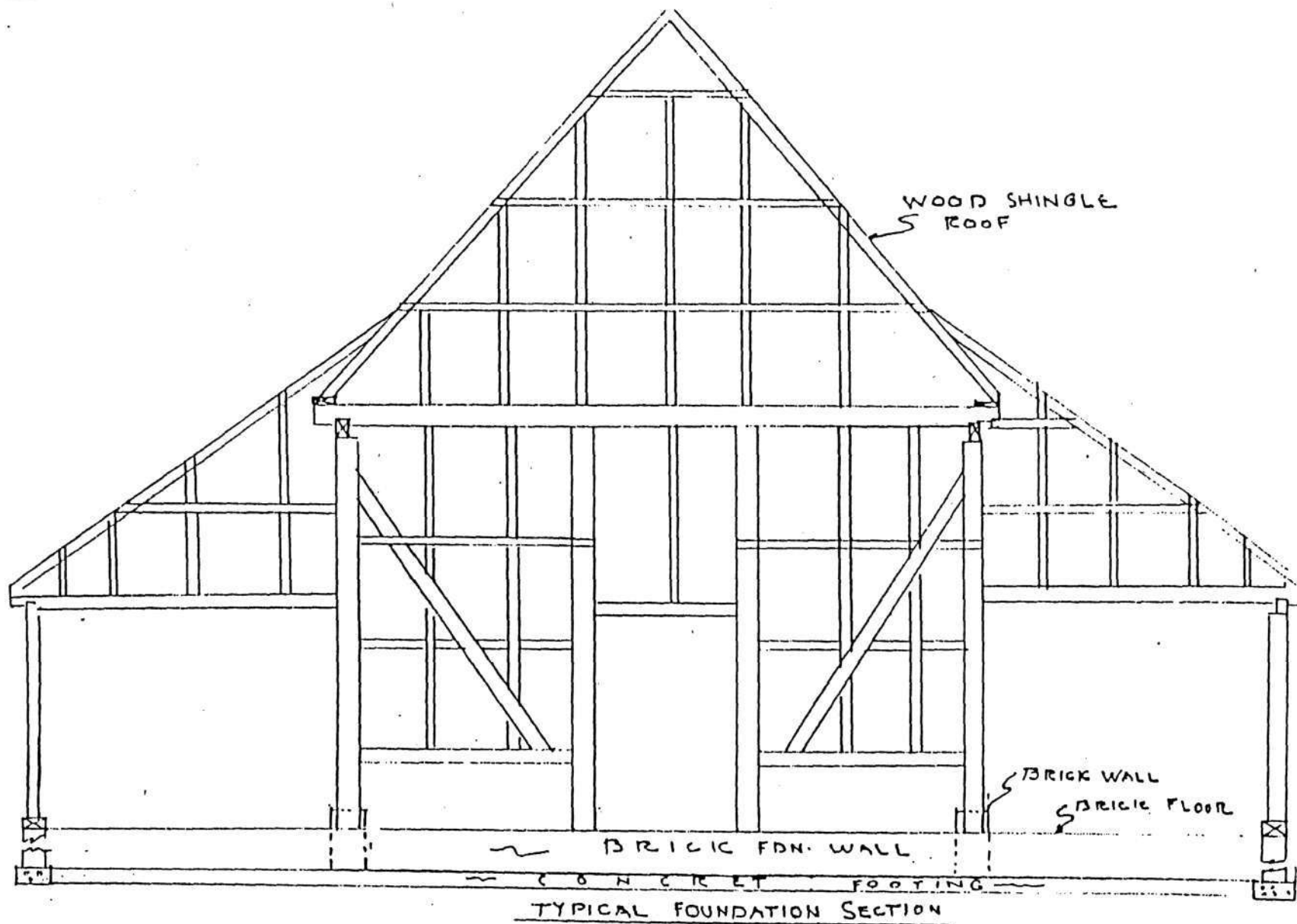
Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD: Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



Jenkins Barn, Bryans Road, Charles County, Maryland

MARK EDWARDS 1980 ?

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MARK EDWARDS C. 1960

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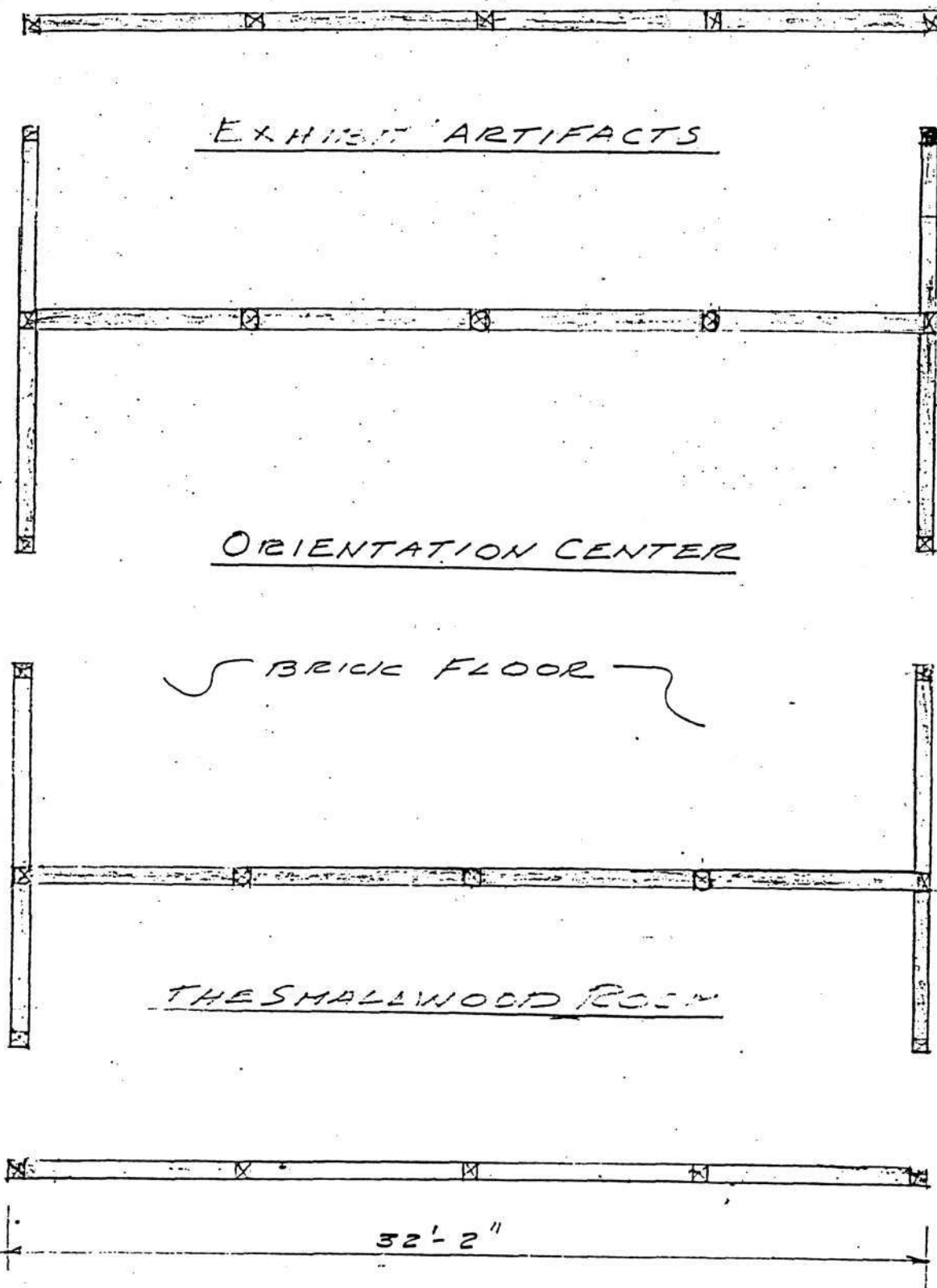


EXHIBIT ARTIFACTS

ORIENTATION CENTER

BRICK FLOOR

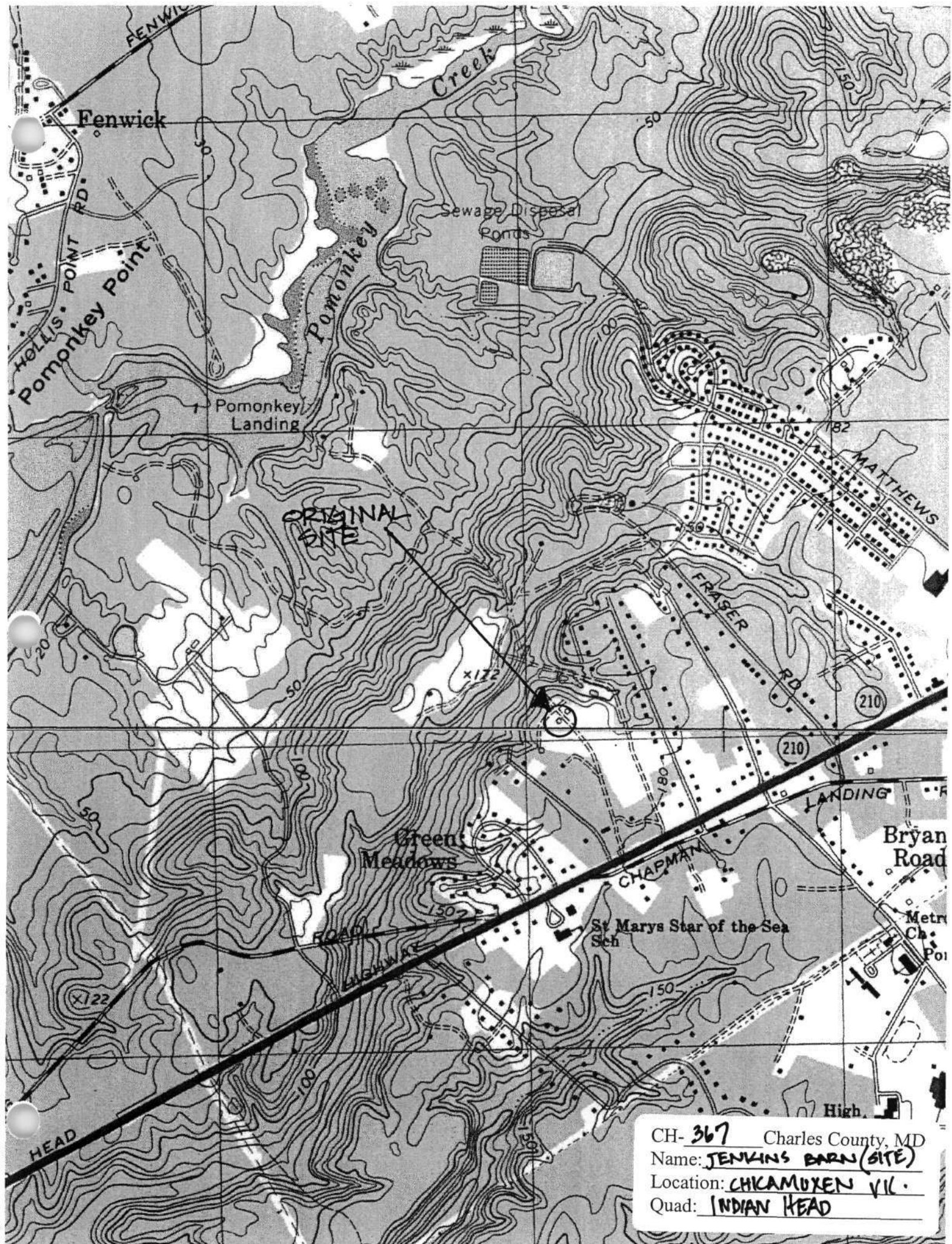
THE SMALLWOOD ROOM

32'-2"

10'-5"

40'-10"
20'-0"

10'-5"





CH-367

JENKINS TOBACCO BARN (RELOCATED)

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2003

C. HARDY

MD 5400

LOOKING NW

1052



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JENKINS TOBACCO ~~BARN~~ (RELOCATED)

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2003

C. HARDY

MD 5100

LOOK NW
2052